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DATE: October 15, 2004
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TO: Examiner Ronald Laneau
FAX NO: 703/872-9306
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ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW? YES NO

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 24, 2004

U.S. SERIAL NO.: 09/848,572
FILING DATE: May 3, 2001
INVENTOR: Bates et al.
EXAMINER: Ronald Laneau
GROUP ART UNIT: 3627
CONFIRMATION NO.: 6826

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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**In re Application of:
Bates et al**

Serial No.: 09/848,572

Confirmation No.: 6826

Filed: May 3, 2001

**For: Systems and Methods for
Operating Vending Machines**

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Group Art Unit: 3627

Examiner: Laneau, Ronald

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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37 CFR 1.8

Dear Sir.

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 24, 2004

In response to the Final Office Action dated August 24, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 24, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. While no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 09-0465 for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

The Claims are listed beginning on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.